

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 11 and 13-23 are currently pending. Claim 1 is amended; the amendment to claim 1 is supported by the specification, for example paragraph 10 of the specification, which teaches that vitrectomy increases the risk of cataract development. This amendment is made in view of the finality of the rejection to bring the case in order for allowance, and without prejudice to the prosecution of subject matter canceled by amendment in other applications.

A sole rejection remains against the claims.

Claims 1-8, 11, and 13-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as unenabled. According to the Examiner,

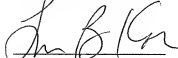
The specification, while being enabling for methods to reduce oxygen concentration during vitreous surgery, does not provide enablement for the protection against the development of any and all cataracts in any patient.

To address this rejection, Applicant has amended the claims to provide for “[a] method for protecting against vitrectomy-related cataract development,” where the low-oxygen vitreous replacement solution is provided during vitrectomy. As stated in the instant specification at paragraph 10, vitrectomy is known in the art to increase the risk of cataract formation. This amendment removes the basis for the rejection, so that the rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicant believes that the case is now in order for allowance, and that no additional fees are due in the filing of this response.

In the event that fees are due, or overpayment is made, however, the Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of any such fees, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4377.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa B. Koble', written over a horizontal line.

Lisa B. Koble

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